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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

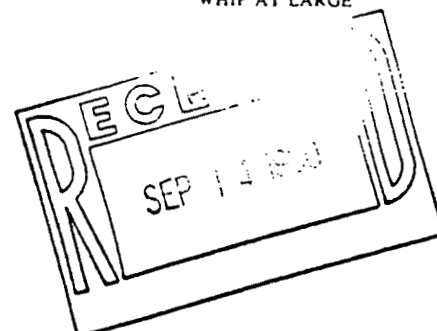
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PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN,
YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

WHIP AT LARGE

September 4, 1990



Mr. John M. Kersh
EG&G Rodky Flats, Inc.
P.O. Box 464
Golden, Colorado 80402

Dear Jack:

In the last few weeks there's been a good deal of progress on the plan developed by the intergovernmental working group organized to deal with water supply concerns of communities near Rocky Flats. I wanted to make sure you had current information on what's been accomplished.

At its last meeting on July 3, working group three agreed to support a package of actions composed of items identified as Option J and Option B. The group also discussed and favored a \$34.7 million "first steps" package (composed of \$13.2 million for structures to protect Standley Lake, and \$21.5 million to purchase water rights to replace those currently stored at Great Western), and agreed to let me and others in the Colorado congressional delegation test this approach in Washington to see if we could get support for it.

Based on this decision, those of us in Washington began working on both the Senate and House sides. Senator Tim Wirth took the lead on his side, by working to include the "first steps" package in the Senate Armed Services Committee's defense authorization bill for federal fiscal year 1991. Tim's work paid off, when he succeeded in getting language included in that bill authorizing DOE to "reimburse the communities surrounding the Rocky Flats Plant for water projects designed to protect those communities from run-off from the plant." While this, in and of itself, doesn't start the funds rolling, it has the advantage of giving DOE very clear direction.

Shortly thereafter, I was able to convince key members of the House Armed Services Committee to include the same language in the its version of the same bill. As a result, DOE will get the same message from both Houses of Congress as to the importance of this issue and what needs to be done.

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I think this language advances our efforts significantly, and puts us in a good position to implement Options J and B. The main task we now face is to demonstrate to DOE Headquarters that: (1) the current situation is untenable; (2) our proposal is well-defined and broadly supported; and (3) that it can be accomplished consistent with DOE's cleanup plans. Several members of the working group have talked this over with DOE officials in Washington, and further discussions are scheduled for the near future.

I think it may be useful to reconvene the working group after this next round of talks, see where we are, and make sure we're in agreement on a workable strategy for getting the job finished.

I think the results of this joint and cooperative effort over the last six months are very impressive. Those results were only possible because of the individual contributions of the group's members and, even more importantly, the ability of the group to reach consensus on these complex, controversial, and potentially divisive issues. You should be proud of this outstanding achievement.

I look forward to continuing this work with you, and hope we can get together again in a couple of weeks.

Sincerely yours,



David E. Skaggs

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